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Number 9

PICNIC SUPPER MEETING AT TILDEN PARK

"Always Something New in the Regional Parks" will be the topic of Golden Gate Audubon Society's meeting on **Thursday, September 14**, in Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley. Chris Nelson and Josh Barkin of the East Bay Regional Park staff will give us the latest news about the Parks. Bring your own picnic supper to the Indian Camp picnic tables near the entrance to the Tilden Nature Area at **6 p.m.** The regular meeting will begin at **7:30 p.m.** Visitors are welcome.—MRS. PHYLLIS ZWEIGART, *Program Chairman*.

(Note: The October meeting in San Francisco will be held on Wednesday, October 11, instead of Thursday because the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park will be closed on Columbus Day.)

FIELD TRIPS - SEPT. 14 to OCT. 8

Thursday, September 14, a morning trip to the Alameda area for the fall migration of shorebirds. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the entrance to Lincoln Park, High Street and Santa Clara Ave., Alameda. Take No. 51 bus from Berkeley or Oakland, or Bus O from San Francisco. Leader: Elsie Roemer, 522-0941.

Saturday, September 16, above trip will be repeated with same leader.

Wednesday, September 20, a walk to see and identify fall flowers and berries and, hopefully, to see flaming poison oak fall color. Meet at **9:15 a.m.** at the East Bay Regional Park Administration Building on Skyline Blvd., a little east of its junction with Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland. Leader: Marshall Jencks, 534-9353.

Saturday, September 30, to Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Marin County. Meet at Audubon Canyon Ranch, Bolinas Lagoon, at **8:45 a.m.** (3 miles north of Stinson Beach). PRBO will give a bird banding demonstration. Leader to be announced.

Saturday-Sunday October 7-8, Monterey Peninsula to observe migrating sea and land birds. For the HARDY seafarers a pelagic trip in an open fishing vessel has been scheduled for SATURDAY. Boat leaves Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey at **9 a.m.** and returns 3 p.m. Fare: \$7 per person. Make check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and mail with a *stamped, self-addressed envelope* to Valeria DaCosta, 2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 94109 **before September 20**. Space is limited. Details will be sent with acknowledgment. Leaders: Alan Baldridge, Ted Chandik, Dave Desante, Guy McCaskie and Arnold Small.

The Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society has planned three land trips for SUNDAY:

(1) *Pacific Grove Shoreline*. Leader: Capt Elgin Hurlbert (USN Ret.), immediate past President, Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society. Meet at Lover's Point parking area **8 a.m.** Will visit Greenwood Park, Crespi Pond and Pt. Pinos, Asilomar Beaches. Land and shorebirds.

(2) *Moss Landing-Salinas River Mouth*. Leaders: Alan Baldrige and Bill Reese. Meet on Jetty Rd. ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of bridge over Elkhorn Slough) at **9 a.m.** Shorebirds.

(3) *Point Lobos State Reserve*. Leader, Judson Vandevere. Meet at Reserve entrance at **9 a.m.** (There is a small entrance fee.) Land, shorebirds and sea mammals. —MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*

WILDLIFE FILMS: OCTOBER 16 - APRIL 2

Audubon Wildlife Films will open the seventeenth season on Monday, **October 16**, with "Sights and Sounds of the Afriean Wilds" by G. Stuart Keith. The 1967/68 series of films will be presented in the Garfield School Auditorium on Rose St. at Josephine St., Berkeley, at 8:15 p.m.

The other four films will be:

"Mexican Adventure" by C. P. Lyons, Monday, **November 13**.

"High Horizons" by William Ferguson, Wednesday, **January 3**.

"The Untamed Olympics" by Walter H. Berlet, Wednesday, **Feb. 14**.

"Wild Rivers of North America" by John D. Bulger, Tuesday, **April 2**.

The season ticket price for 5 wildlife films is \$5.00 for Audubon members, \$6.00 for non-members, and \$3.00 for students under 18. Single admission for adults will be \$1.50 and for students \$1.00. You may purchase tickets now by sending a check (payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society) to Audubon Wildlife Films, P.O. Box 103, Berkeley, Calif. 94701. *Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.* Tickets will be mailed in September. The auditorium theatre is large enough for us to sell 200 additional tickets this year. Bring your friends.—MRS. FRANCES ELLEN FALLGATTER, *Audubon Wildlife Films Chairman*.

AUDUBON NATURE TRAINING CLASSES START IN SEPTEMBER

Now in its fourth year, the Audubon Nature Training Program at Berkeley's Aquatic Park will begin fall classes in September for teachers and youth leaders and in October for parents.

Audubon Training provides outdoor education in an urban environment for adult leaders of youth. Each $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour session includes at least one hour out of doors, emphasizing direct contact and experience with nature just outside the door. These experiences are supplemented by demonstrations and displays inside the nature training center. Miss Phyllis Lindley, the Instructor, demonstrates how to observe, enjoy and interpret natural processes and living things, using an outdoor "classroom" that resembles the schoolyard, playground, backyard or vacant lot. The classes are under the auspices of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, the Berkeley Recreation & Parks Dept., and the Berkeley Adult School.

The Tuesday afternoon series for teachers will start **September 19** at 3:30 and the Thursday afternoon series will begin **September 28** at 3:30. The opening dates for youth leaders are **September 27** for Wednesday mornings at 10 and **October 6** for Friday afternoons at 1:30. The Wednesday afternoon sessions for parents will start **October 25** at 1 p.m.

The tuition fee is \$5 for 8 weekly sessions for teachers and \$3 for 4 weekly sessions for youth leaders and parents; the fee includes all materials distributed during the series. To enroll, mail your name, home address (and either school, grade and district, or youth group affiliation) to Audubon Training, P.O. Box 103, Berkeley, 94701, specifying series preference. The fee may be paid in advance (checks payable to Audubon Nature Training) or at your first meeting.

OBSERVATIONS

John Smail submitted the following observations from the recent Point Reyes Bird Observatory expedition to the Farallon Islands. Observers were C. John Ralph (CJR) and John Smail (JS):

June 8—CJR and JS banded and photographed an *Ovenbird*.

June 9—JS saw a *Wandering Tattler*.

June 12—CJR and JS banded a *Palm Warbler* and saw an *Eastern Kingbird*.

June 13—*Eastern Kingbird* still on the island.

June 14—CJR and JS saw a *Red-Eyed Vireo*, and *American Redstart* and a second *Palm Warbler*. *Eastern Kingbird* still around.

All the birds mentioned for June 14 were also seen by a visiting party including Howard Cogswell and Ken Schulz.

Among other non-resident birds we saw (B denotes banded) were: 2 Western Wood Pewees (B), Bullock's Oriole (B), Mockingbird (B), Swainson's Thrush, Myrtle Warbler (B), 2 Band-tailed Pigeons, White-crowned Sparrow (Gambelli) (B), 5 House Sparrows, Ash-throated Flycatcher (B), Western Flycatcher (B).

On June 13 our new Recording Secretary, Jane Dang, recorded an interesting migrant—a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Olema, Marin County, near the Headquarters of the Pt. Reyes National Seashore, where she showed him to ten other Golden Gate birders. He was still there on June 22, according to Scott Terrill and Enid Austin.

On June 24 Dale Clyde and Peggy Vollmer observed a Purple Martin catching insects over Mrs. Vollmer's pond in Napa County (between Glen Ellen and Yountville). Mrs. Vollmer first saw the male on June 12 and the female on June 25 and 26.

Scott Terrill reported that the Least Terns were still at Alameda on June 21.

Jeffrey Greenhouse saw a male Hooded Oriole near his house on Fulton St., Berkeley, June 30.

Elsie Roemer celebrated the Fourth of July watching a Bald Eagle at Point Arena (Mendocino coast).

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Summer duck-watching on the Canadian prairie, a long-planned goal, became a reality, if for only three short days in mid-June. First we visited the noted waterfowl authority, Albert Hochbaum, at the Delta Research Station west of Winnipeg, Manitoba, where we found a pair of tame Trumpeter Swans nesting right in the front yard. Mr. Hochbaum commented that we "down in the States" hadn't sent back an adequate quota of nesting ducks this spring. His associate, Dr. James Lowther of Bishop University, P.Q., divulged to us what they didn't mention at Expo 67 — that a large, thriving colony of Ring-billed gulls, and other waterfowl, had been evicted from Isle Notre Dame opposite Montreal, a dedicated sanctuary, in order to bring this island into the wide-spread Expo complex!

The Minnendosa area, north of Brandon, Manitoba and west of Delta, was recommended for more rewarding roadside duck-watching. Two days of birding-by-car here produced 14 duck species, including the White-winged Scoter, which we found way up near Riding Mt. National Park on a large pond in company of a Red-necked Grebe. But a blizzard at end of April, together with a serious predator situation and the ranchers' burning habits, had both delayed and reduced hatchings. We managed to find a Canvasback with her brood during the last hour of our last day!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains an experienced biologist in this area from May into August to study and report on nestings and brood success. This veteran waterfowl researcher believes that a coyote-extermination campaign a few years back helped contribute to the raccoon's invasion of Southern Manitoba, as well as a Red Fox increase, with a resultant heavy increase in duck-nest predation. Many ranchers, too, appear indifferent to waterfowl values and continue to burn old grass and stubble around pond and pothole margins where the ducks nest. They are even destroying tree and brush windbreak belts in order to create more wheat-land, perhaps thereby creating a future dustbowl!

—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman.*

PRBO TO MARK SHOREBIRDS

Several thousand shorebirds will be banded and marked with varying bright color patterns this fall and winter by Point Reyes Bird Observatory, and help in observing these birds is solicited from any persons with a spare day a month or more. Most of these birds will be marked in Drake's Estero, although it is expected that the birds will turn up in several other locations, such as Bolinas, Tomales and San Francisco Bay, as well as other locations to the south. The Observatory is carrying out an intensive study of the movements of shorebirds in the Limantour Estero area on Point Reyes National Seashore and needs volunteer help to trace the local and long-distance movements of these birds. Although observations of the painted birds will be helpful at any time, once a month the Observatory's volunteers will carry out an intensive banding session over a 24-hour period at Limantour Estero, and on these dates observations in other Pt. Reyes Peninsula areas are especially needed. Anyone interested in helping on

this very important research project is encouraged to write to PRBO, Mesa Road, Bolinas, Calif. 94924 for details and instructions.—GAIL JENKINS.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Yosemite National Park, June 3-4—Highlights of the week-end field trip led by *Warren Larson* were the great gray owl, pygmy owl, and blue grouse. On Sunday the solitary vireo and fox sparrow responded to tape recordings of their songs played by Marie Mans.

Mt. Tamalpais area, July 8—We walked along the shores of Lake Lagunitas, Bon Tempe, and Alpine, three lovely wooded lakes. The two-mile trek around Lake Lagunitas produced numerous warbling vireos, lesser goldfinches, Hutton's vireos, white-breasted nuthatches, purple finches. Missing was the osprey seen on previous occasions. At Bon Tempe we hiked out to Pine point, where an elusive black-throated gray warbler was finally tracked down. We saw the chipping sparrow, ash-throated flycatcher and western tanager. At Alpine one purple martin and a lark sparrow were seen, plus the usual long line of western gulls on a log. Best of all were 3 pileated woodpeckers. One was peeking a hole in the tree and handing the chip to the other who threw it away. A total of 43 birds was obtained.

—*Pat Triggs and Olga Laist, Leaders.*

THE PLANNING AND CONSERVATION LEAGUE NEEDS MEMBERS

"The future of California as a pleasant, attractive, and livable state hangs today in the balance. If our environment is to be saved from the destructive results of haphazard development and exploitation of resources, prompt legislative action is needed in Sacramento—legislation to ensure sound planning and conservation," states the concise summary of the history and purpose of the Planning and Conservation League.

"Only by expert, consistent lobbying can the needed legislation be enacted. To provide the essential lobbying service, the Planning and Conservation League has been formed.

"Until two years ago, planning and conservation forces had no real voice in Sacramento. Special interests with their well-financed established lobbies had little difficulty in blocking any legislation which they regarded as disadvantageous to themselves. By contrast, the exponents of conservation and planning in the public interest were generally lacking in the background and know-how so essential to legislative accomplishment. In short, where skilled lobbying was needed, there was a vacuum. To fill this vacuum, to provide the needed services in behalf of conservation and of planning groups of like interests, a nucleus of such groups in 1965 organized and agreed to pool resources for legislative action. This was the origin of the Planning and Conservation League. In barely two years, since its inception, the PCL has proved its worth. Its work has contributed substantially to the passage of considerable legislation, including several highway administrative reform bills, the parkways bill and the resolution by which the open space conservation amendment was placed on last November's ballot and subsequently enacted.

"Now an ambitious program for 1967 is underway. It is based on

months of study culminating in a legislative workshop, held in December, 1966, on the Berkeley campus. The resulting legislative program covers items in the fields of open space, parks and parkways, conservation of the coastline, trails, scenic easements, underground utilities, forest practices, abatement of pollution (air, water, land), certain phases of urban planning, conservation education, and further highway administrative reform. The League is supported by dues from 28 organizations and approximately 2000 individuals. During the legislative sessions members are kept informed of the progress of important issues by the PCL bulletin, *California Today*. William D. Evers, prominent San Francisco attorney, heads the PCL. The Board of Directors has 28 members from northern and southern California, many of whom represent the organization members of the League. Legislation supported by PCL is the unified expression of the concerned Californians who have become its Members."

President William D. Evers reminds us that conservationists are prone to talk to one another and bemoan the deterioration of the California environment. *PCL is doing something about it and needs help.* All officers and directors are volunteers, serving without pay, but the lobbying budget is \$30,000 per year. The Planning and Conservation League is a non-profit politically non-partisan *action* group. Dues and contributions are not tax deductible. Only through increased membership can the League become wholly successful. Individuals may enroll as members for \$5 per year by writing to Planning and Conservation League, 2636 Ocean Avenue, San Francisco, Calif. 94132. (see envelope enclosed) For further information, phone 681-9190.

NATURE CONSERVANCY'S NATIONAL MEETING IN S. F.

The 18th Annual Meeting of The Nature Conservancy will be held in San Francisco at the Sheraton Palace Hotel September 8, 9, and 10. Panel discussions will explore The Nature Conservancy philosophy of land and water conservation, and speeches by major conservationists are scheduled. Field trips will be made to dedicate four new projects near San Francisco, including a seacoast wildflower preserve, a large stand of rare Bishop pine near Point Reyes, and a remnant of prairie-savanna parcel amid the Napa Valley vineyards. For further information, phone the Western Regional Office in San Francisco: 421-1759.

U.C. EXTENSION COURSE IN ECOLOGY

"The Land Around Us" is the title of University of California Extension Course 807 to be offered in Berkeley on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 12 noon, beginning September 27. Lectures and films will be coordinated with field trips to watershed areas, salt marshes, tidepools, wildlife refuges, and the San Francisco Bay shoreline. There will be twelve meetings of alternate lectures and related field trips. Early registration is advised because enrollment is limited. The lectures will be given on the third floor of the Farm Credit Bldg., 2180 Milvia, Berkeley; instructors will be Clara Jean Chapman, Virginia Johnson Havel, and Rembert Brimm Kingsley. The fee is \$45 payable to The Regents of the University of California. For enrollment application or further information, phone 861-5452.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH GIFTS

The following gifts of remembrance were made to Canyon Ranch:

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| | Mr. & Mrs. Dinsmore Alter, and her friends in the S. F. office |
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NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to our Society: From *Berkeley*, Ruth Benton, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Clack, The Clements Family, Ronald Clenderer, Garrett DeBell, Mr. & Mrs. Scott Fleming, August Fruge, Lucile Green, Harley Messinger, Dr. David Mertes, Mrs. J. R. Mitchell, M. H. Segal, Carole & Donald Truman. — From *Oakland*, Dick Anderson, Patricia Bauer, Mrs. Clarence Flcager, A. T. Sponberg. — From *Piedmont*, Jean Gilmoir. — From *San Francisco* — Sharon Bachman, Irene Brown, L. W. Clark, M.D., R. D. Gannon, Daisy Lawless, Michele Liapes, Margaret McGraw, Marie Martinseay, Adele & Mary Neri, Elizabeth Rieger, Lt. Alan Wickens. — From *Orinda*, Margaret LaCrampe, Mr. & Mrs. Russell Symon, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Wakefield. — From *El Sobrante*, Mrs. Maxine Trumbo. — From *Fremont*, Virginia Vorous. — From *Alameda*, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Dahl & Family. — From *Montara*, Jean Parker. — From *Lafayette*, Mrs. Edward Rosston. — From *Palo Alto*, Mr. & Mrs. David Kaufman. — From *Richmond*, Curt Sutliff. — From *Vallejo*, Theresa Rotenburger. — From *Pleasant Hill*, Evelyn Curtis. — From *Teasdale, Utah*, Elizabeth Sprang.
(June report)

CYGNET REMINDER:—Give a child a year's subscription to *The Cygnet* by sending \$1 to Mrs. M. S. Nickelsburg, 2585 Union St., San Francisco 94123.



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THE GULL

SEPTEMBER

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Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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| Canyon Ranch Film Distribution Chairman | Mrs. Bonnie Smith | 555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco | 94116 | 681-7635 |

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National \$8.50 per year, Includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2.00 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.